



January 2017

Wiltshire freemasonry

Wiltshire Masonic News

The newsletter for Wiltshire Freemasons

A Very Happy New Year to you all from the Provincial Grand Master.

As we leave 2016 and enter 2017 I would like to take this opportunity to wish every member of the Wiltshire Masonic family a very Happy New Year. We closed the year on a very sad note with the untimely death of both Peter Winton and Kevin Logan, we extend to their families our condolences, love and support. In the early part of the New Year a 'Celebration of Peter's life' will be held and I hope as many as possible will attend what I believe will be a real testament to the positivity exuded by Peter in everything he did. He really was a man of whom it could be said 'he lived respected and died regretted'



For Wiltshire Freemasonry, 2017 promises to be a very exciting and challenging year as we will come to the end of the five year Masonic Samaritan Fund 2017 Wiltshire Festival; and start the formal Tercentenary Celebrations of the formation of the first or Premier Grand Lodge.

I know you share with me the hope that we can use the wonderful opportunity presented by each of these events to show a sceptical world the positive benefits of our Ancient and Honourable institution and in particular the role Freemasonry plays in the wider Wiltshire community.

I am confident that the events we have planned for 2017 will receive your wholehearted support, whether it be the Tercentenary Cathedral Service on Sunday 3rd September, the end of Festival Luncheon on Saturday 23rd September or the trip to London on 31st October. I am also aware that some events for which your support is so vitally important to their success are still in the final planning stages and will be advised to Lodge secretaries during the coming months.

Very Worshipful Brother Peter John Winton PGSwdB, DPrGM.

The funeral of Bro Peter Winton was held at St Peter's RC Church on Thursday 22nd December 2016 and was attended by over 320 mourners. The principal mourners were Peter's wife Virginia and their two children Holly and Luke together with their partners Stephen and Indira

A special service celebrating Peter's life will be held on **Sunday 8th January 2017** at 2.00pm in Christchurch, Old Town, Swindon.

Worshipful Brother Kevin John Logan PPrJGW, PrGMentor

Kevin Logan very sadly passed away in the early hours of Friday 23rd December 2016 after a typically pugnacious battle with Prostate Cancer and a secondary chest infection. Kevin was well known as a bright and shining star in Freemasonry with an amazing talent for communicating complex data into easy to understand language. His work on the Provincial Mentoring programme and the creation of The Loganberry Trust will be his lasting legacy and we will remember him with pride and great affection.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his partner Viv and his daughters George, Jo and Charley.

Kevin's funeral will be held at 4.00 pm on Friday 6th January at Semington Crematorium.



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Cathedral Service - are you coming?

I suspect that everyone now knows about the very special service which will take place on Sunday 3rd September 2017 in the magnificent surroundings of Salisbury Cathedral. The interest shown in the event by members of the Province has been quite amazing, especially the news that Masonic regalia may be worn within the precincts of the Cathedral building itself (but not outside)



In the Winter Edition of *Across the Plain* (p10) there is a voucher offering a 20% discount in both the Refectory and Bell Tower Tea Rooms. The voucher is valid at any time, even before the event in September 2017 and I can guarantee the offer will be repeated in the Summer 2017 edition of the Provincial magazine *Across the Plain*. W Bro Phil Still is taking bookings for the Service and the buffet reception. If you have not already booked Phil can be contacted by email on phil.still@btinternet.com

Working with Orders beyond the Craft.

From time to time the Provincial Grand Master meets with the Heads of Other Orders to discuss matters of common interest, share views and information on a wide variety of topics. In December Philip Bullock hosted such a meeting in Calne at which a presentation was made on the 'State of the Province', the work of the Sarsen Club initiative, and a briefing was given on the Cathedral Service and Tercentenary celebrations.

The Prestonian Lecturer.

In the December edition of *Wiltshire Masonic News* we advertised the annual Prestonian Lecture which took place on Tuesday 13th December at the Swindon Masonic Centre. The lecture was given by W Bro Dr R A Berman. Over 60 Brethren were treated to a scintillating presentation which was in danger of being slightly overshadowed by two charitable presentations by the Lodge. The first was to Bro Stephen Bridge for £5,000 given to the Provincial Grand Masters Discretionary Fund and the second a donation of £500 presented to Bro John King for Teddies for Loving Care.

Elias de Derham donate £500 to Stars Appeal.

Members of Lodge Elias de Derham No.586 are avid supporters of the Salisbury District Stars Appeal and in December Bros Derek Brown and John Holt visited the hospital and presented a cheque for £500 to volunteer fundraiser Jo Maslen. Afterwards Derek and John received an update on the work of the Stars Appeal and the charity's plans for 2017 from Dave Cates the local Fundraising Manager.



Pleydell Lodge get media mention.

It's always good to see Freemasonry being recognised for all the right reasons. Pleydell Lodge No. 4687 received a mention in the Swindon Advertiser under the headline '*the twelve cheques of Christmas*'. This delightful play on words went on to explain how members of the Lodge had given twelve cheques totalling £6,000 to twelve charities. It was also nice to read how Swindon Freemasons who took part in the ninth annual Swindon Women's Aid Christmas Appeal were able to make a real difference to the lives of the women and children affected by domestic abuse by providing toys, toiletries and other much needed daily living essentials.



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Silent Fire - a point of view

Very recently I was asked 'why do some Lodges do silent fire after the toast to absent Brethren' and a very good question it was; so what is the answer? Well, here we encounter a grey murky world of half truth, tradition and maybe a little over embellishment, but there is a really good study piece which I believe offers a very interesting viewpoint; I refer to Bro. Yoshio Washizu and his article titled *Notes on Masonic 'Fire'*. In his study piece Bro Washizu suggests the practice of 'fire' pre-dates any Masonic interest but is mentioned in the French exposures published in the late 1730s and early 1740s. Masonic 'fire' is the completion of the toast and it is part of the honours accorded to whoever is the subject of the toast. The infrequently used, so-called 'silent fire' is a variation (or even an aberration) of Masonic 'fire' and is not so popular. It is uncertain when or where 'silent fire' was adopted first. Cartwright stated that many years ago certain Tylers adopted the practice of calling for 'silent fire' 'merely with the idea of marking the toast proposed by them with a special characteristic. In fact, it was suggested that the whole idea was simply a case of 'giving themselves airs' - perish the thought this is the case in our Lodges!

It used to be the custom in the Province of Northants. and Hunts. to have 'silent firing' until it was forbidden by Provincial Grand Master, Lord Euston, who said, "*It was quite bad enough for them to be in distressed circumstances, we do not want to bury them*".

Washizu concludes that after a lengthy search he was unable to find a single argument that could explain or justify 'Silent Fire'. And there are others who maintain that 'silent fire' has no place in 'after proceedings' at all and oppose its use at the Masonic festive board. What do you think?

London beckons in October 2017

A 200 strong contingent of Wiltshire Freemasons will be travelling to London in October 2017 to join in the International Tercentenary celebration commemorating the formation of the first Grand Lodge. While some Wiltshire Brethren join Freemasons from across the world in the Royal Albert Hall others, with their wives and partners will enjoy a wonderful River Princess cruise on the Thames followed by dinner in the Cholmondley Room in the House of Lords, hosted by Black Rod, or the Churchill Room in the House of Commons hosted by Justin Tomlinson MP.

Tercentenary and Festival Luncheon plans coming together

The Festival Planning Team is hard at work on the final event of the Masonic Samaritan Fund 2017 Wiltshire Festival, a Grand Luncheon to be held at Trowbridge Civic Centre on Saturday 23rd September 2017. The Provincial Grand Master is looking forward to every Lodge in the Province being represented at the luncheon and in particular looks forward to welcoming **Masters** who held office during the five years of Festival, and **Charity Stewards** who played such a vital part in organising events and raising funds. Booking forms are available on the Provincial website or contact Bro Ian Dunbar, 21 Crown Close, Chippenham, Wilts SN15 3UQ or by email 2017dinner@pglwilts.org.uk

Tercentenary Jewel (see picture opposite)

The Provincial Grand Master is delighted to see the new Tercentenary jewel being worn by Brethren in the Province and would take this opportunity to remind them that, when worn it should be placed after the Royal Arch jewel and before the Provincial Festival jewel.



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Calley Lodge double Initiation

On Friday 6th January 2017 Peter Winton's son Luke and son-in-law Stephen will be Initiated into Freemasonry. Please note the meeting will Tyle at the slightly later time of 6.30pm.

Celebration of Life.

A service celebrating the life of Peter Winton will be held in Christchurch, Swindon at 2.00pm on Sunday 8th January. Everyone who knew Peter will be very welcome to attend the service.

Lodge Installation meetings in January and February 2017

Wednesday	January	4	Longleat	1478	Warminster
Monday	January	9	Concord	632	Trowbridge
Friday	January	13	Royal Sussex	355	Swindon
Wednesday	February	1	Remembrance	4037	Swindon
Wednesday	February	15	Innocence and Morality	9587	East Knoyle

Have you got your 2017 diary handy, then why not enter these dates now?

Wednesday	June	14	Quarterly Communication	London
Sunday	September	3	Tercentenary Cathedral Service	Salisbury
Saturday	September	23	Festival & Tercentenary Luncheon	Trowbridge
Thursday	October	5	Provincial Grand Lodge	Salisbury
Tuesday	October	31	Visit to House of Lords	London
Wednesday	September	13	Quarterly Communication	London

Fraternal visit of Zur alten Linde Lodge to Wiltshire.

The weekend commencing Friday 2nd to Sunday 4th June 2017 will see members of Wiltshire Lodge of Agriculture, Chaloner Lodge and Fiat Lux Lodge welcome to the Province visitors from Zur alten Linde Lodge which meets in Dortmund, Germany

Further information will be available on the Provincial website, also in the next edition of **Wiltshire Masonic News** and directly from Jim Speed by email jimandjudyspeed@talktalk.net

Enjoy the Downton Experience on Monday 6th February.

We invite the Provincial "Top Brass" and the Provincial Grand Master for Dorset to our Lodge meeting in February, when they are asked to take part in the ceremony, normally a 2nd Degree. Several brethren dressed in their Clan tartan provide plenty of colour and the atmosphere is exceptional, stimulated by the performances of the Present and Past Provincial Grand Masters and Grand Officers and enhanced by a sip or two of the amber nectar at the traditional Burns Supper where the Haggis is usually addressed by Sir Ron Stuart-Paul.